

REMARKS

The specification has been amended. Claims 1, 2, 16-18, 20, 21, 24-27, 30, 36, 37, 46, 47, and 63 have been amended. Claims 15, 19, 22, 23, 45, and 58 have been canceled. Claims 1-14, 16-18, 20, 21, 24-44, 46-57, and 59-63 remain in the application.

The examiner has objected to the specification. The amendment to page 14 has removed the basis for this objection and the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw it.

The examiner has objected to the drawings. The replacement drawing sheet submitted herewith has removed the basis for this objection and the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw it.

The examiner has objected to claims 1-3, 16, and 36. The amendments to the claims have removed the basis for this objection and the examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw it.

Claims 1-7, 15-20, 22-25, 38-41, 45-52, 58-60, and 63 are rejected for anticipation by US Patent 6,445,719 ("Schneider"). That rejection is respectfully traversed for the following reasons.

The amendments to claims 1, 18, 38, 47, and 63 have resulted in limiting all of the claims to a combination of which claim 1 is representative:

"selecting values of bytes in the overhead section to be used for frame synchronization; and

selecting the location of the frame synchronization bytes in the overhead section."

With respect to claims 15, 22, 23, 45, and 58, the examiner contends that FIGS. 3, 4, and 8 of Schneider teach selecting locations for frame synchronization bytes. The applicants respectfully disagree.

Webster's New Collegiate Dictionary, 1974, defines "select" at page 1047 as "to take by preference from a number or group; pick out; choose; make a choice". Schneider's FIGS. 3 and 4 show *fixed* locations for an FSW and the concatenation of an ASW with an FSW. The capability to select within or outside those locations is not taught or enabled in Schneider. According to the amended claims of this application, however, the locations of frame synchronization bytes can be selected or chosen. See Table 2 on page 27 in this regard.

Accordingly, since all of the claims in this application include this combination, they are all patentably distinct over Schneider, alone or in combination with one or more other references.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terrance A. Meador". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the beginning.

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Date: *October 15, 2004*

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